
V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,393). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ueda teaches a multicolor lithographic rotary press that includes a plurality of printing sections, a plurality of register adjusting means, a paper drawing means and a plurality of width adjusting means. The plurality of printing sections is vertically arranged along a traveling line of a paper web. The plurality of register adjusting means corrects register errors. The paper drawing means draws the paper web through the printing sections. The plurality of width adjusting means adjusts the width of the paper web. Each of the printing sections includes at least one divided plate cylinder that has a plurality of divided sections. Each divided section is independently moved in at least one of an axial direction and a circumferential direction. The register adjusting means is mechanically connected to each of the divided plate cylinders in the printing sections. The register adjusting means includes an adjusting mechanism for actuating the divided sections individually in response to a control unit connected to a sensor for detecting lines and images printed on the paper web by each of the printing sections.

Each of claims 3 and 4 is directed to a web-fed, multicolor, offset printing press having a series of printing units for printing different color images on a continuous web of paper or like material traveling along a predefined path at a predetermined speed with each printing unit being a combination of a blanket

cylinder assembly and a plate cylinder assembly. Each of claims 3 and 4 recites that each printing unit includes a cylinder drive motor drivingly coupled to either of first and second pairs of helical gears for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a speed in accordance with the predetermined traveling speed of the web during printing. Additionally, each of claims 3 and 4 recites that a first pair of helical gears is coaxially coupled to a pair of halves of the plate cylinder at opposite ends of the plate cylinder for joint rotation therewith respectively. Furthermore, each of claims 3 and 4 recites that a cylinder drive motor is drivingly coupled to the other of the first pair of helical gears for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a speed in accordance with the predetermined traveling speed of the web during printing, and for adjustably varying the rotational speed of the plate cylinder with respect to the predetermined traveling speed of the web so as to approximately and finely position the pair of images longitudinally of the web, with a view to fine positioning of the other of the pair of images longitudinally of the web.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claims 3 and 4. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach an offset printing press with each printing unit being a combination of a blanket cylinder assembly and a plate cylinder assembly and each printing unit includes a cylinder drive motor drivingly coupled to either of first and second pairs of helical gears for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions as recited in claims 3 and 4. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a first pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to a pair of halves of the plate cylinder at opposite ends of the plate cylinder for joint rotation therewith respectively. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a cylinder drive motor drivingly coupled to the other of the first pair of helical gears for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a speed in accordance with the predetermined traveling speed of the web during printing, and for adjustably varying the rotational speed of the plate cylinder with respect to the predetermined traveling speed of the web so as to approximately and finely position the pair of images longitudinally of the web, with a view to fine positioning of the other of the pair of images longitudinally of the web.

By contrast, Ueda teaches a gear train for driving at least two printing units as specifically shown in Figure 7. In particular, please note that helical gear 115 of a first printing unit engages with another helical gear 115' which is operative to drive a second printing unit.

For the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 4 are allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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